

Urban District Council  
of Ulverston.

---

ANNUAL  
REPORT

OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health

---

Year ending December 31st, 1939.

---

ULVERSTON :

FLETCHER AND ROBINSON, QUEEN STREET.



To the Chairman and Members of the Urban  
District Council of Ulverston.

---

: Annual Report of the :  
Medical Officer of Health.

---

ULVERSTON,

SEPTEMBER, 1940.

GENTLEMEN.

I have been obliged to delay the issue of my Annual Report until a much later date than usual on account of the fact that the necessary statistical returns have not been received from the Registrar General. Moreover, I am asked to abbreviate the Report as much as possible.

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT. As in the past your district has been kept under close supervision.

WATER SUPPLY. I think we need have no hesitation in saying that our water supply is, as regards purity, above suspicion and there has never been any necessity to restrict the supply to consumers. From the Inspectors Report it will be observed that extensions and improvements have been made in various parts of your district,

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE. The sewers and drains have been subject to systematic inspection, and on account of the insufficient gradient of certain lengths of sewers flushing and dredging is necessary.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES. The cowsheds and dairies of the district are subject to monthly inspections, and speaking generally it may be said that they are kept in good order.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION  
So far as meat inspection is concerned I am able to speak with confidence. Your Inspector, Mr. Smith, gives a great deal of time to the work, and I am satisfied that he does everything that is possible to ensure a sound meat supply to the public.

HOUSING. It is with great regret that I should be obliged to report that on account of the outbreak of hostilities it has been necessary to abandon all idea of proceeding further with our housing programme. The Inspector's Report tells us that reports upon a large number of unfit houses had been prepared for submission to the Ministry and it is a great pity that a work which had been proceeding so satisfactorily should have had to be suspended.

Before giving the usual vital statistics I will produce the Inspectors Report.

# ANNUAL REPORT.

## Inspector's Department.

---

TOWN HALL,

ULVERSTON,

MARCH, 1940.

*To the Chairman and Committee of the Health Committee:—*

GENTLEMEN.

I herewith beg to submit a summary of the work carried out during the year ending December 31st, 1939, relating to Public Health Administration.

### SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN.

Water Closets defective, affecting 33 houses	...	...	15
Notice to improve property generally, affecting 2 houses			2
Offensive Accumulations	...	...	5
Insufficient and insanitary refuse accommodation, affecting 15 houses	...	...	3
Defective Roof, affecting 1 house	...	...	1
Public Highways, Hedges, Water, etc.	...	...	4
Dirty and insanitary house	...	...	1
No arrangements for heating water in house	...	...	1

### HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1939.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	...	...	35
(i) By Local Authority	...	...	14
(ii) By other Local Authorities	...	...	NIL
(iii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	21



- (b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts :—
- (i) By the Local Authority (included under
- (a) (i) above) ... .. NIL
- (ii) By other bodies (included under (a)
- (iii) above) ... .. NIL

Owing to hostilities, new work in re-housing has been held up. Approximately, a further hundred unfit houses had been surveyed for submission to the Ministry for clearance orders, but these will now have to stand over until building operations recommence.

New Council Houses built during the year (for					
general needs	...	...	...	...	14
Total number of Houses built under the 1930					
Act onwards	...	...	...	...	221
Total number of Houses built under all Housing Acts					317
Families rehoused under Slum Clearance or					
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	200
Persons rehoused under Slum Clearance				...	744
Persons rehoused under Overcrowding				...	183
Number of unfit houses demolished	...		...	...	149
Houses still to be demolished	...	...	...	...	20

#### NEW BUILDINGS.

Number of plans submitted	...	54
Number of plans approved	...	54
Number of plans disapproved	...	NIL

The approved plans are for :—

- 14 houses, Local Authority.
- 28 houses, private enterprise.
- 9 garages.
- 3 Estate layouts.
- 30 miscellaneous buildings (alterations and additions, toolsheds, signs, sanitary improvements, etc.).

All new buildings are inspected during construction to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Bye-laws.

## SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The usual systematic inspections have been given to the sewers, dredging and flushing carried out on certain lengths with flat gradients and ordinary maintenance work carried out where necessary.

## DRAINS.

All new and relaid private drains are inspected before being covered up.

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are no premises registered as common lodging houses in the Urban Area.

## FACTORIES.

Under the new Factories Act, 1937, the distinction between Factory and Workshop is done away with, and premises coming within the scope of the Act are now known as Factories.

No. of Factories in the register ... 75

No serious defects have been found during the year, the usual minor defects being remedied on the Owner's notice being drawn to same, without service of formal notice.

## SHOPS ACT 1934.

Number of shops inspected during the two  
six month periods of the year ... 512

## REFUSE REMOVAL.

Number of Ashpits in the area	...	65
„ „ Privy-middens	...	44
„ „ Pails	... ..	6
„ „ loads of refuse removed		2135

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND FUMIGATION  
OF PREMISES.

Number of notifications received	...	51
Scarlet Fever	... ..	13
Diphtheria	... ..	38
Typhoid	... ..	NIL
Premises fumigated after Scarlet Fever		10
„ „ „ Diphtheria		35
„ „ other causes		11

Disinfectants are supplied free of charge in cases of infectious disease.

## RATS.

The usual procedure was adopted during rat week, free rat poison being issued to ratepayers and 1d. per tail offered. Handbills were circulated throughout the town pointing out the advisability of concerted action.

Free poison is also issued to any ratepayers who report the prevalence of rats on their premises.

## WATER SUPPLY.

The supply has again been maintained without interruption and, when tested, found to be entirely suitable for domestic use. The following extensions or replacements have been carried out :—



## EXTENSIONS—

Church Fields Estate	...	139 yards of 4" C.I. pipe laid for estate development.
„ „ „		15 yards of 3" C.I. pipe laid for estate development.
Fell Street	... ..	41 yards of 4" C.I. pipe laid for estate development.
Rake Lane & Urswick Road		1380 yards of 6" concrete lined pipe laid to replace existing defective main.
The Drive	... ..	190 yards of 4" C.I. pipe laid to replace defective main.
Woodland Road	... ..	48 yards of 3" C.I. pipe laid to replace defective main.
Outcast	... ..	537 yards of 6" C.I. pipe laid to replace defective main.

Yours obediently,

C. TELFORD HAGUE,

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	3,196
Population, 1931	...	...	...	9,234
„ 1921	...	...	...	10,121
Inhabited Houses, 2549				Vacant 45
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£53,627
Sum represented by 1d. Rate			...	£207

	Total	Males	Females	Birth Rate per 1000
BIRTHS—Legitimate	142	69	73	
Illegitimate	13	4	9	16·7
Totals	155	73	82	

## SEASONAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE BIRTHS.

			Male	Female	Total
1st Quarter	...	...	16	26	42
2nd Quarter	...	...	23	18	41
3rd Quarter	...	...	14	19	33
4th Quarter	...	...	20	19	39
Totals		...	73	82	155

DEATHS. In estimating the death-rate it is necessary to take the total number of persons dying in the district and from this number subtract the deaths of persons usually non-resident in the district and add to this total the deaths of residents which have occurred outside the district.

		Total	Males	Females	Death Rate per 1000
Legitimate	...	137	79	58	14·8
Illegitimate	...	0	0	0	
Totals		137	79	58	

## AGE PERIODS AT WHICH THE DEATHS OCCURRED.

	Male	Females	Total
Under one year      ...      ...	6	4	10
Between one and sixty-five      ...	32	19	51
Sixty-five and upwards      ...	41	35	76
Totals      ...      ...	79	58	137

## WARD DISTRIBUTION OF THE DEATHS.

	1st Quarter		2nd Quarter		3rd Quarter		4th Quarter		Total		Death-rate per 1000
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
North	3	5	5	3	2	3	3	5	13	16	13·2
South	8	8	1	4	2	2	7	2	18	16	15·9
East	2	3	8	2	2	2	5	1	17	8	12·5
West	5	0	3	4	4	1	4	2	16	7	13·0
Central	2	1	3	4	6	2	4	4	15	11	20·8
Totals	20	17	20	17	16	10	23	14	79	58	14·8

From the above tables it will be observed that there have been 137 deaths equal to a rate per 1000 of 14·8. In the previous year there were 133 deaths producing a death-rate of 14·4 per 1000.

INFANTILE DEATHS. I need scarcely again explain that by Infantile Death Rate we mean the number of deaths of infants before the end of their first year of life as compared with the number of births. In the year under review there were ten deaths at this age period producing a rate per 1000 births of 64·5.

CAUSES AND WARD DISTRIBUTION OF THE INFANTILE DEATHS.

	North Ward	South Ward	East Ward	West Ward	Central Ward	Total
Premature Birth ...	1 2	0 0	1 0	1 1	0 1	3 4
Congenital Defects ...	0 0	1 0	1 0	0 0	0 0	2 0
Bronchitis ...	0 0	0 0	0 1	0 0	0 0	0 1
Totals ...	1 2	1 0	2 1	1 1	0 1	5 5
Rate per 1000 Births	...	...	...	...	...	64·5

In the year 1938 there were 6 deaths at this age period the rate per 1000 births being then 45·1.



The tables herewith give the new cases of Tuberculosis notified the deaths arising therefrom and the parts of the town in which the cases arose.

### Age Incidence of the Notified Cases and Deaths.

	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5—10	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
10—15	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
15—20	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
20—25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25—35	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
35—45	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
45—55	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
55—65	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
65 & up	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Totals	4	3	3	4	3	1	0	0

### Ward Distribution of Notifications and Deaths.

	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
North ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South ...	1	1	2	3	1	1	0	0
East ...	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
West ...	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Central ...	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Totals	4	3	3	4	3	1	0	0

The death-rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis has been equal to 0·43 per 1000 of the population, there have been no deaths from Tuberculosis of other organs. In the year 1938 from Pulmonary Tuberculosis the death-rate was 0·32 per 1000, from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis 0·21 per 1000.

In comparing these figures with the County rate and with that for the rest of the Country we find that for the County the rate is 0·46 for Pulmonary Tuberculosis for the rest of England and Wales 0·58 per 1000.

CANCER.—The following tables show the deaths from Cancer and the part of the town in which the cases occurred.

#### WARD DISTRIBUTION.

		Males	Females	Total	Rate per 1000
North	...	0	5	5	2·3
South	..	1	1	2	0·93
East	...	3	1	4	2·00
West	...	0	2	2	1·1
Central	...	2	2	4	3·1
Totals		6	11	17	1·8

#### ORGANS AFFECTED AND AGE INCIDENCE.

		35 & 45		45 & 55		55 & 65		65 & up		Totals	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Stomach	...	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
Intestines	...	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	2
Breast	...	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Ovary	...	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Rectum	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Uterus	...	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Lip	...	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Tongue	...	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Pancreas	...	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Liver	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Larynx	...	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Tonsil	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Totals		0	0	1	3	3	5	2	3	6	11

There is a most satisfactory decrease in the number of deaths from Cancer as compared with 1938, when there were 21 deaths from Cancer and a rate per 1000 of 2·2.

For the year 1938 the death-rate from Cancer in the Administrative County was 1·59 and for the rest of England and Wales 1·63.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACCORDING TO AGE INCIDENCE.

Disease	Under 1		1 to 2		2 to 3		3 to 4		4 to 5		5 to 10		10 to 15		15 to 20		20 to 35		35 to 45		45 to 65		65 & up		Deaths in Hospital
	Total	1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	10	10	15	15	20	20	35	35	45	45	65	65	to Hospital	
Scarlet Fever	17	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	10	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	
Diphtheria	43	0	0	2	2	2	2	4	4	25	6	6	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	0		
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Pneumonia	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0		
Erysipelas	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0		
Totals	63	0	1	4	4	2	2	4	4	35	8	8	2	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	61	0		

	North		South		East		West		Central			
	Ward		Ward		Ward		Ward		Ward		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Scarlet Fever	0	4	0	3	3	5	0	0	1	1	4	13
Diphtheria	1	6	8	4	6	13	1	1	2	1	18	25
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pneumonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Totals	1	10	8	7	9	19	2	1	3	3	23	40

The unsatisfactory feature about the above table is the number of cases of Diphtheria notified, and this is all the more regrettable when we remember that we have available a preventative measure so simple and so free from risk, the undeniable value of artificial immunisation is insufficiently appreciated. Diphtheria, from the ages of two years till eleven is the principal killing disease, and there is only lacking the willing co-operation of the public to bring about an immense reduction in the incidence of the disease and number of deaths therefrom. I feel that public opinion should be more fully informed in a matter where intensive effort would have borne such fruit in saving life, sickness and expense.

### HOSPITALS.

A Hospital is provided by the County Council at High Carley in the Ulverston Rural District, providing 112 beds for the treatment of Tuberculosis, and 12 beds at Oubas House, Ulverston, for Tubercular Children. There are no Children's or Maternity Hospitals in the District. There is accommodation for 34 patients at the High Carley Hospital for patients suffering from Infectious Diseases; this is under the management of the Ulverston Joint Hospital Board.



SMALL POX.—Should any case of Small Pox arise in the district, arrangements have been made with the Kendal Joint Fever Hospital Board to admit them to their Hospital at Kendal.

#### AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Motor Ambulance provided by Joint Hospital Board for infectious diseases, and motor ambulance provided for non-infectious diseases.

LABORATORY WORK.—Facilities are offered the Medical Practitioners for carrying out Laboratory Investigations.

Before concluding my report I must not omit to thank my colleagues and the Members of the Council for their ever ready co-operation and assistance.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

G. H. PATTERSON,  
L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng., D.P.H. Lond.

27th August, 1940.





